

Dear Kathleen Driscoll, Carlotta Grandstaff, Alan Thompson, James E. Rokosch,
Greg Chilcott

Located South of Hamilton, Montana, is a creek and canyon called Lost Horse. Imagine a long open valley, split down the middle by a creek, whose waters are so clear that you might be tempted to have a little taste. Not a small creek either. Miles long, it is wider than 30 feet in spots and deeper than I am tall in others. Along its' route there are uncounted pools and riffles that provide angler's with many a tale. On either side of Lost Horse creek are large grey, black and tan granite boulders. They are scattered as if thrown from high on the canyons rim by some other worldly force. And above the boulders, rise massive rock walls that when viewed from the valley seem picturesque and an indispensable part of the landscape. From just below the faces, they take on another life all together. Imposing and inviting they are an ideal and unique resource for rock climbers and mountaineers.

Unfortunately, this idyllic valley and its treasures are going to be destroyed, unless the Forest Service terminates their plan to allow for the operation, for the next 10 years, of a gravel pit and processing plant in the heart of Lost Horse Canyon. The decision to radically alter one of Montana's' jewels has been made with very little forethought to the impending repercussions. The safety of any individual living near or enjoying Lost Horse is greatly jeopardized. Endless big rigs hauling ass just feet from the front doors of houses, farms and ranches is only one of the concerns. When the inevitable decision is made to start blasting, a small army of security will be required to ensure that all safety precautions are being met. Anything less will open the city/county to lawsuits and loss of revenue.

I work in the extractive resource industry and value the jobs and dollars that Montana's wealth of natural resources enables. However this just isn't that sort of issue. It is nothing more than a lazy solution to a less than difficult problem. As such, I beg of you to do all that is in your power to prevent this disgrace from happening. There is a solution and it isn't destroying one of the many reasons we all love and live in Montana.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Justin Pettersen

5250 Karen Ct.

Missoula, Mt. 59803

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JUL 30 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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